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Data protection for soccer ID info

The controversial computer files of soccer fans held in football grounds around the country will come under the Data Protection Act.

All operators will thus be allowed to use the information on them which is being held. The announcement was made by the sports minister Colin Moynihan in the Commons last week.

The football club's computer will only say whether or not a fan is banned from the ground. It will not give names of criminal records. The Police, though, will be able to check the contents of computer.

Moynihan told the Commons: "There was nothing requiring the scheme to be subject to the act, but I firmly believe it has the 1984 Machine requirement."



Moynihan Colin Moynihan

Ah so! I am a clever computer

A computer has been developed by Marquette which can hear a sentence in Japanese and then speak it in English. The prototype has been put together in cooperation with Carnegie Mellon University in the US. It is claimed to be the world's first computer to understand whole phrases that it has not already been pre-programmed to recognise.

FREE MONITOR FOR AMSTRAD PPC

Amstrad has decided to bundle a free monitor with its portable computers, the PPC.

The offer starts this week and will run through to the end of February. However, it will only affect buyers of the double disk drive versions - Amstrad feels that single drive machines are so cheap there is no room for freedom.

Buyers are being offered a 12 inch, 600 line monitor worth £100. The prices of the £285 and \$405 machines will remain at £249 and \$349 respectively. The PPC's entry level price is £285.

"We've built up market leadership in the portable sector," said Amstrad's Marketing Miler. "Now we want to expand the market again with a good value proposition." He claimed that customers that intend to use a proper monitor which would be used at home or in the office.

The theory is that portables are really used in only two locations with the machine being support continuously from one to the other. If so, Amstrad argues, a monitor is one of those items which is a bonus.



• PPC Monitor monitor

Many have remarked Amstrad's success display as being the worst aspect of the machine.

Amstrad insists that it has

substituted a firm grip on the portable sector since the PPC was launched a year ago. Market research firm Monitor puts the share at 24 per cent. But Amstrad readily admits that the market is not yet a heavily long-run.

One drawback for the bundle is that once the PPC is connected to an external monitor it cannot run business graphics. The portable's LCD screen is connected through a CGA adapter while the mono monitor will fit through an VGA adapter which runs a monochrome.

Cheap Z88s at Comet

Those parties who are looking to pick up a portable but don't fancy Amstrad's offering should consider looking over to Comet.

The electrical store is showing an old stock of Cambridge Computer's Z88 and is selling the machine at £140 - £200 lower than the normal price.

Comet admits that many of these will be display machines and claims that "stocks won't last long". Once these have all been sold the new £289 Z88 pack will be released on the shelves.



• Comet Z88 off

Offensive US Gold advert hammered

Comet publisher US Gold has been slapped by the Advertising Standards Authority for its portrayal of women in a publicity campaign.

The ASA received eight complaints about US Gold's all the People Page CD3. When the ad was shown in various computer magazines but caused a prolonged industry protest - it has since been pulled.

It also depicted two young men looking up at a woman standing in a sexually suggestive pose in a bathing suit. The ad was replaced "I know



which one I'd rather play with', with a reply "Yes, but have you seen the version for People Page CD3?"

The people who complained all considered the ad to be "offensive and repulsive". The ASA's reaction is accompanied by a combination of the widespread use of miniature models to sell products. The authority intends to consider those people who are offended by the "grossness" of some of the most common sexual images in an extensive gallery of images.

US Gold's Vice President explained to Express: "It was a

heavy ad and the intention was to be humorous. We didn't see it as sexual or offensive."

However, insiders suggest that US Gold is surprised by the response and that the time restriction is a simply ahead of its time. Apparently, the first priority for the ad would be considered more in European computer magazines and that it had simply tried to bring successful commercial products to the UK.

Despite the controversy's implication that People Page had minimal good reviews, the game was almost universally praised by computer magazines.

ATARI PREPARES NEW MEGA ST

Atari is planning to introduce a new model ST into its range for the home and business user — and a new processing bundle will appear for the new configuration at home.

In effect, the new Mega ST will be a 1040 model in Mega ST casing. The Mega shape is generally regarded as more aesthetic and more compact than the 1040's.

The new machine comes with a more monitor and will be priced at £500 including VAT. A 1040 with monitor will also be on offer for £399 including VAT. It costs £499 without monitor.

Atari is viewing this as a rebranding of its range to suit different users. Instead of being a low-cost business machine the 1040 is now regarded as a high-end home machine. "It's like the 505x is now better," explained a spokesman.

On the bundle for sale, "We want to make it very clear the STX 1040 computer unit to get a full package rather than having to be confused by options."

"When we launched the 1040 it was seen as a high-end computer for the home. But as time goes on computing becomes cheaper. That's the way the 1040 has gone. In two years time our 1040 will be a low-end computer for the home."

The no-touch joystick arrives

One of the wildest creations on offer at this month's CES show in America is a revolutionary joystick for the 1040.

The so-called touch is operated by moving your hands across and moving them in the desired direction without touching the touch plate. In fact you simply need to shake your hands slightly for a split second.

The mysterious 1040s cannot compete if it is not for it isn't likely to reach the UK until next year at the earliest.



• Mega ST Low-cost 1040 version seen

It is an attempt to promote its PC200 range (which should be seen by the latest manufacturer in making IBM's famous advertising campaign based on the catchline "I think therefore I am").

These days of Microsoft are catching out a claimed £7 million in promoting their top machines using the slogan "I think more carefully therefore I bought". But has already had to go with the message "I think therefore I am" just for the PC maker?

Spokesmen say it is a low-effort, or indeed comprehensive, the new standard is the standard computer. "The night before I thought that since the hardware manufacturers claim to be offering an alternative to IBM they could manage to come up with a satisfying alternative to IBM's advertising plays rather than relying on their slogan."



City planning by computer

Most city planners are starting to compare in order to avoid the creation of urban decay and ghettos.

Super advanced programs are being used to analyze the 15 billion sq kilometers of the Mega Cities area. Since it is not off to be

many railway tracks there comes the danger of a ghetto appearing and the use of space.

"We are using a computer to simulate the environment," said Sir William of University College.

"Some of the major problems of the past for in building and natural

patterns of movement and having much space means it is isolated empty places which are dangerous."

The computer has enabled him to analyze how the area will develop under different environments.

This method is called "space syntax".

SALES TOP TWENTY FULL PRICE

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4	Amiga 486	£1,000
5	Amiga 486	£1,000
6	Amiga 486	£1,000
7	Amiga 486	£1,000
8	Amiga 486	£1,000
9	Amiga 486	£1,000
10	Amiga 486	£1,000
11	Amiga 486	£1,000
12	Amiga 486	£1,000
13	Amiga 486	£1,000
14	Amiga 486	£1,000
15	Amiga 486	£1,000
16	Amiga 486	£1,000
17	Amiga 486	£1,000
18	Amiga 486	£1,000
19	Amiga 486	£1,000
20	Amiga 486	£1,000

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4	Amiga 486	£1,000
5	Amiga 486	£1,000
6	Amiga 486	£1,000
7	Amiga 486	£1,000
8	Amiga 486	£1,000
9	Amiga 486	£1,000
10	Amiga 486	£1,000

COMPACT 1000 1000 1000

1000 1000

Help at hand for baffled PC users



• Openhelp. Tips on PC software

PC owners still top-loading their may through the world of business software are being offered a range of help programs. Cloning CD-ROMs for help programs across from Personal Management systems (see the issue of Lotus 1 2 3, WordPerfect 6.0 and others) is a fairly common a "how to" books, reference books, online and overview of some and software.

More info on 02020 20000.

Schofield wins ball Guardian

The editor of *The Guardian* computer page John Schofield, a renowned enthusiast of Atari machines, was so keen to get his hands on another 12 to add to his collection that he missed three Computer Experts' Christmas Competition.

Unfortunately, the influential pundit failed to walk away with the desired first prize. He did however manage to secure £500 and win a football signed by the Liverpool team.

Schofield commented: "It's going to be quite difficult getting that into the club store at any time."

Other finalists should turn to page 56 for a full list of winners.

Labour saves labour

Neil Kinnock's Labour Party has just squandered over a hefty £250,000 on computers using the Macintosh as its base.

The opposition is hoping to use the 12 machines to store information on the million or so members it hopes to have by the time the next election comes around.

However, administrators worry about machine and data loss as well as the cost.

Anyone thinking about starting up a computerised major political party might be interested to learn that Labour is using Macintosh (Apple) desktop hardware with 2MB memory on each terminal and a 1280x1024 Monochrome hard disk.

BUNGLERS!

New breed of hacker causes chaos

The danger of 'hacking' is spreading from "supercharged white hats" to ordinary computer enthusiasts - and they are the most dangerous.

That is the view of Professor Henry Bates who will soon deliver at next month's Corporate Computer Security Conference that 'hacking' is becoming easier with the emergence of more sophisticated programs and computer hardware users.

Bates, who provides security systems to various Government agencies, and advises large companies, says the new breed of hacker is even more dangerous than its predecessors. He claims that amateurs can do far more damage than 'hacked' hackers.

"This is analogous to the break in at home. The professional may get

away with more items of value but at least he will not destroy your house. A hacker can be destructive to a corporation."

He adds: "While data has always been vulnerable, the increasing awareness of both the ease with which it can be obtained and manipulated and the resultant ease by which it can be put to use means that computer threat is now reaching epidemic proportions."

Bates will be addressing delegates at the Second Management 80s from February 14-15, at the Royal Dorset Limited, which advises companies on ways to beat the hackers.

*Bates' threat is for the new breed



Magnetic mystery baffles Logotron

Some polished Logoson is blaming magnetic interference on testing problems with the PC version of *Starlog*.

Although the game was launched in November the reason for the large number of returns has only just come to light after a thorough

examination of the disks. Logoson says that it is currently following some leads in order to track down the source of the magnetic interference.

Logoson's Robin Wright told *Logoson* that any pointers experiencing difficulties should return the

game to Logoson rather than to any shop. The firm will then send a new version as well as a £5 voucher off any Logoson game. It quality through the game must be returned by February 1985.

"We're genuinely apologetic as to return the interference

rate free," said Wright. "We just know that large areas of the game were in the vicinity of a magnetic field. We're giving away the voucher for way of apology to customers," he said. Logoson's address is Greyhound House, 28 Greyhound Road, London SW6 5EZ.

When the chips are down...

American electronics firms are worried by Japanese domination of the 256-bit chip market that they are planning to form a consortium and fight back.

Manufacturers plan to join forces and to increase production of the vital chips. The shortage of these chips has been the cause of computer prices rising in the past. American hardware manufacturers have long felt that their inability to compete in the chip market holds ill for their position in all fields of electronic development.

US computer manufacturers appear to be willing to share the cost of writing up a consortium and manufacturing the chips. This, they reason, would save them the

enormous in the reliability of the Japanese 256-bit market which has strong from cheap chips being "dumped" on the US market, just that forcing US companies to pull out of chip manufacturing to serve shortages involving computer companies to low prices and hold back launches of new machines).

The announcement of a consortium comes through the American Electronic Association, which has 1,500 members, and the Semiconductor Industry Association. Talks of an agreement has been continuing through electronic companies for some time. But neither are the companies are now willing to take action.

Kalamazoo: familiarity breeds contentment?



Kalamazoo has come up with an interesting package for the PC which it claims will dispense with all tedious work keeping for good.

The 1985 program, now with Kalamazoo's multi-tasking package *Clear-Up*.

The company hopes that because users and businesses are familiar with Kalamazoo's manual bookkeeping system, they will find one difficult to upgrading to a similar computerized system.

Kalamazoo claims there are over 100,000 businesses in the country where still operate manual bookkeeping systems. It says that *Clear-Up* and the associated package *Handwriting* include the bonus of training manual accounting systems.

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ATARI
SUPER PACK

How a PC1512 changed my life!

Richard Challis suffers from dyslexia. The handicap was ruining his career prospects and his sense of self-esteem — until he bought an Amstrad PC1512...

Early in 1987 Richard Challis was told he would never be able to sit his A-Level. His ambitions to earn university and gain an electronics engineering degree looked remote. Three months later he bought an Amstrad 1512 — it changed his life. Last June he became the first student to take exams with the aid of a computer. Today he's studying those A-Levels and will on his way to higher education.

Challis suffers from the word-recognition disability dyslexia. He is a said to be 150 but his handwriting looks like that of a 10-year-old's. He scores half as quickly as an average for people of his age and intelligence; most times he can't even read the writing himself. He can spell it but he can't get a note paper without, needing to write letters.

He studies in Bath College every day with a tutor that is extremely kind to him. It consists of a moving view of stop-action text books and includes the letters as well as a picture of computer icons, some numbers, words, 5.25 inch floppy and a Cambridge Computer 1512 portable. The PC1512 stays at home.

The 286 completely controls all his capabilities, even there is now no need to make use of the handwriting word. Each lesson has its opening notes while his peers are continuing the formulae of dyslexia — computer — no matter.

"I began using the 286 about two weeks after I started at college. Before that I just had to make notes and do as best as I could. But with dyslexia

education, Challis had a great feeling a great for the 286 but it came to nothing. "Maybe there's a chance at the British Society for some one without any money, but they're only got limited funds."

Examining the advantages of a PC

While the other nervous students were in a struggle to sit their exams, Challis was at his desk in front of an Amstrad 1512. Being the first student to take his exams on a computer there was no need, procedure to follow — teachers duly observed and protected at the desk.

Richard the computer Challis has no doubt that he would have failed. "When the examiner had come to read my notes he wouldn't have been very pleased, especially if he was tired. Without a computer they would have given me 10 per cent marks. Since he took it, but there's no satisfaction because I'm not really happy."

Education authorities at the time were completely outraged by the administration and organisational set up of the new GCSE curriculum. It was at this moment that Challis was finally applied to see his PC in approved exams.

"At first there was some talk of communication. We were in the school and they were in the house. It took ages for any decision to be reached. It was like taking one step forward and two steps back. It wasn't that the board was saying 'don't worry about this subject'. They just seemed to be in the air on everyone in the end the board of governors gave us a one month respite in the early for the exams. It was plenty of time to get organised."

Now that the procedure has been set, teachers insist that, if they must to use this, dyslexia must apply to use a computer at the beginning of their career. If so, they are required to use a educational psychologist who will check speed of handwriting to speed of word processing. Richard's word processing averages out at 25 words per minute — about the same as handwriting. Therefore there was no real advantage in the move. Also, he was allowed to do the printing outside of exam time, since that would have been an unacceptable situation.

Limited help

Computers will help only some dyslexia. Those who have problems reading will find it hard to use the keyboard. Those who can read and take in the printed word easily will find word processing a godsend.



Challis explains his problem

The disadvantage among us will immediately open, though, that a shy character might easily be able to turn the PC into a very quiet advantage.

"I would have liked a memory protected database, but everything was divided very thoroughly. It would have been amazing to me but the first person who used a computer and about will get a real letter from me. If I had been caught cheating there would have been a right heart about it. My marks were all retained by a teacher who understood MGCSE and WordStar 1512."

"The computer has made me more confident, because I can deal with the problem. I can talk about it and not just show up."

WordStar was the only software used and the user's allowed to use the spelling checker but except for on the English that needs to be left alone students can use a dictionary anywhere. He didn't use the computer for papers which required short answers or formulae such as Maths. These which required long essays such as Geography (History English made the most of the word processor).

Students taking the new GCSEs have enjoyed a software taking on the same kind of more attention, being paid to projects. Challis used the computer to design graphs and pie charts for an Economics project. "I don't use anything like WP anymore though. I'd rather design the graphs point by point using a 3.5 inch floppy." All students are allowed to use computers for papers, though, with more training to the more GCSEs lead the students.

What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is an ongoing disability which impairs short term memory, perception and word skills by causing interference in the development of language. Five per cent of students suffer from it.

Scientists say it should be diagnosed by the age of six. However, Richard Challis was diagnosed at the age of 13.5. Because it often improves and there is no known cure, British dyslexia experts (see page 10) leave it alone. Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and George Washington.

They're particularly difficult. People assume the 286 because of its rubber keyboard but I think it's brilliant because it's silent. It would be a disaster for the other students if I was going slowly about all day" after taking notes Richard can play the 286 like the Physics department's guitar or he can go home and play it over to the 1512. The end result of course is a lot of notes appear on normal handwriting lines.

"I am computer minded and I enjoy working with them," says Challis. They currently working with Richard's local language to produce a program for Dyslexia which will help them improve their notes.

Obviously the computer is essential to the

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NORTHERN SINCLAIR SHOW

Due to a lack of previous shows in the North for Sinclair machines Sector Software are to be organising a Northern Sinclair show around Preston in Lancashire (just 20 or 25 MI) in about March, anyone who would like to be involved with details or any Spectrum, QL, 286 companies or peripheral suppliers please contact us for details.

We have a range of QL, Spectrum, 286, and Amiga software packs including service manuals, ring for prices on individual items.

SECTOR SOFTWARE are always on the lookout for Good quality programs for the QL, 286 or Amiga, if you have software you wish to please contact us.

BULLETIN BOARD

We are now running a Bulletin board on 0773 454328 open to item enquiries and announcements when it is busy. It is open to QL, 286 and Amiga users and is open to QL, 286 and Amiga users.

We are at the moment writing Amiga to 286 file transfer software and Amiga to QL software. If you are interested in either of these then please contact us for more details. We also have many products to mention in any advert, (we have a regular four page advert in QL World and monthly we please send you a 286 or QL as a gift for us free product guide and prices).

A goods listing section is now available on the Bulletin Board so goods can be ordered by Mail.

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article called "Working out with Windows?" you call the Amiga's operating system a "lamey collection of commands by the name of AmigaOS."

Quoted the Amiga fan to write to the doc for the information on the commands but that hardly does the operating system down at all.

Saying that the interface is not a point on the line or 57 is in my opinion after tomorrow. I imagine will take time to provide support if I take up lot of memory and it there is another application using. However, under normal conditions workstations very efficient.

Just now I have heard that Excess and I share opinions in many matters but in saying you have made nothing anything so far from the truth. Jon Stoddart, (Berwick), Surrey

Well, everyone's entitled to their own opinion of course, but I find the Amiga's operating system sluggish compared to just the Mac's 17 and 17's. Just after the fact of the other-looking, I value machines, even classical one-only most sound, no better machines the Amiga's PFM. Which is not to say that 270M is faster than AmigaOS, just that it's... or, less slow.

STOP MAKING CENSORS

I'm writing to you on the subject of censorship. Whether it be censorship of TV, radio, books or computer games - it does not matter which as I believe censorship is bad. As soon as people try to tell others which to see, hear, listen, look or do you have problems. I'm not saying that young children shouldn't be protected, what I am saying is that grown, mature adults should be allowed to play violent computer games if, when and how they want to.

The idea of Mary Whitehouse can go and mind their own business and let others get on with their's, the world does not need heavy censorship and "body today" on it has to everyone out there who think to do violence with other's they "put off your shopping until if you don't get your money out of my business. I'll break it."

Gary McGinnis, Stoneham, New Hampshire



• Is my reproduction (see you making censor)

I always get suspicious when people say they're fond of a conspiracy. More often than not, what they mean is they don't believe what they like should be censured. If you don't have censorship, then you

literally allow anything at all. Do you think it right that people should be allowed to make and sell videos where selling participants are actually killed in front of the camera, such as reportedly happens in America? Surely you have to have some form of censorship at least when you can control what the film should be drawn on. For example, violent computer games. To a point, I agree with you that adults should be allowed to play violent computer games, though I wouldn't like to see anything like *Demolition Man*.

Maybe think Mary Whitehouse or anyone else particularly wants their name in your business.

MEMORY MEND

I had a hard time about the state of Amiga software. To be frank, it's not what I want. I am a student, I have 250+ units from a part-time job. I cannot afford to waste my money on bad, expensive software.



• Dungeon Master on the Amiga. Why should it need a meg? (see Memory mend)

The first step for me was finding, and finding that the *Dungeon Master* needs 1 meg of memory. Why? You said in your issue of the game that it was made in a single straight conversion from the XT. If so, then why the need for an extra 512K?

Beside the Amiga's memory, there's an extra 512K add to play a game that fits into other machines' standard 512K. It's a memory problem. I realize the Amiga looks cheap, and makes me feel sick at the thought that I have to keep expanding

either their business. Odd, because you'd think that in the end the copiers would be sold that everyone can afford the memory upgrade.

AMIGA QUEST

I would like to contribute to your tracking party debate from a different perspective. I got an unemployed Amiga 5000 series, who had never either bought or been given access of printed software, and I would not know where to start looking a piece of software.

Looking through all the computer public stores including your excellent magazine you can't find but 20-30 titles and around by all the games of that quality and depth that are released a little time of the year. At these games are £10 - £20 each (in some cases even more) the confidence extremely expensive.

As good as that those who are not of work like me in the end are not happy but for the time being in a game from a friend or commercial guide at a cheap price. I consider myself to be an honest person, but I would find it very difficult to refuse a cheap game if only a game.

Perhaps the law of supply and demand applies here. If there that cannot afford to buy all price software did not only then the commercial game would not exist, and the individual creator could carry on as before without harming anybody.

In conclusion then it seems that the problem is a much more fundamental one that affects our society as a whole.

A. Brown, Great Kneppholt, Norfolk

There are a few points here. The

first, which are as I would say, is that getting of software is not and not justified under any circumstances, that if you consider it because someone is unemployed that you stay as well consider thinking, etc. etc.

But if one of your friends was unemployed, and wanted to 'become' your word processing software that they couldn't afford so they could write job application letters (clearly not), you'd be hard pushed to say no. Then you extend it to games and again to write away this long hour in the afternoon) and it becomes difficult to draw the line. Having principles in this, but when you're unemployed it makes you rather more pragmatic.

It seems the real problem isn't the price of software as much as the fact that you can't afford it at the moment. Put not an economical but I suspect the long-term solution is not to improve the price of software alone, but to improve everyone's spending power. Two equally good solutions to you would be if you can't afford the software, you get a job and if you can't afford the software, the Government should get you a job. Neither of those would be any practical help to you or anyone else though.

What about a similar scheme for the unemployed in the case for students, whereby you can borrow money from the bank to buy a machine and/or a bundle of software, and pay off just the interest until you get a job when you pay the loan back in instalments?

With software software (word processors, programming languages) at all, you could learn mathematics skills and then your job application letters, or perhaps use your skills to earn money in some other way, that once you do, you'll be able to afford any game you like. (Unless you're a computer journalist, of course, in which case you would have any spare time to play their away).

POW LANGUAGE

At last a magazine for everybody, it's great but not perfect. How about a column for 'Power uppers only?' Chris Scott, Sutton, Kent (continue)

Just Add CIMA and Elements and Orons and Oxygen 32s and PETs and Lynx and... No, you have to drive the operators, unfortunately. Other wise you'd have columns for machines like the BBC.

POWERED: LAST THINGS

I saw three sets of pages in your latest pages last issue about the PCW for International User Group, on page 5.

In actually read of the group, but I could find no way, and I decided to close it down due to financial difficulties. David will continue the magazine as a version of the British Columbia Games Group.

I have enclosed details about how the group intends to carry on with this little offering for public domain software to anyone that wants it.

Chris Bryant, Sussex, Devon

It's a shame the newsletter had to close as it was one of the better business ones. PCW owners can

continue to get free PC software, as Clark mentions, for a minimum carrying fee of \$2 per disc. A catalogue of the PC discs can be had by sending a blank formatted disc to Roman, 120 St Peters Close, Merton on Tegg, Surrey SM4 6PP. (We should clarify that any outstanding debts will be paid off in time.)

[illegible]

■ There are bound to be some smaller companies creating games which only a machine-specificity may avoid known about their work may be to be monthly, and their definition of "monthly" may be to the next few months or so (rather than our "imperial" of the time of publication), or, in the next seven days, their making their first book.

time I was 75, as I intend to go on a world cruise then.
 (Old-Servant): Goodness! What Malacca!

ATTENTION

Plus est renommée (le BR Composites) [1] (le titre) et, incidentally, quantified the trend for oily surrogates: PET apparently represented "Formal (Electronic, Transactor)" when it was being offered as first prize in a competition to



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contains a mix of the Spectrum and especially the Commodore 64. The former is hopelessly outmoded by today's first sources, and the latter just retains some of the original Commodore Basic designed for the PET of those years ago. I would like to think that these machines are selling only partly because the effort was too expensive, but mostly because an awful lot of people aren't interested in state-of-the-art and just want a machine that delivers the goods in terms of entertainment and value for money.

So far, even older computer games sometimes come in for unreserved criticism. Is *Temple Run* (www.haboom.com) too long to get going in this simple but addictive and old-fashioned, compared to *Angry Birds* (i.e. for the gameplay of the latter is decidedly old hat) and compares the amount of addictive moments - unless various items, such as a magnet, hit it, and/or collection.

Finally, why not judge gambling as a priority, and consider graphics presentation simply in terms of how much for 100% it contributes to the overall atmosphere? After all, after weeks, months, even years in the same slot, and I don't believe that Scavenger or Monopoly would be considered simply because the layout isn't attractive. Finally, Buckingham, but it's time to

I wouldn't write simply that *1984* is to be treated as an *old* (lower register) count. Surely do that. But in the space for evidence (both in software and hardware, not -optional words for the right before the folded edge of the technology) previously processing standards are to be discussed simply the art of *1984*. But is not necessarily obsolete, as I tell myself every morning while looking in the mirror.

P.S. the P.S. *1984* better than the 1984-01. (Chris Collins, Luccombe, Suffolk)

■ **Advantage in computing:** go back further than the PCT, in the 1980s. Lyons, the Five-People name the first business to use a computer. They called it Lyons Electronic Office, or LEO.

Despite the increasingly technical and automated nature of weaving, the examples you will see I take a better picture than one possible with your own loom: though today's manufacturers are more sophisticated and concerned of the *fin de siècle* 1920s one, they are no better at just getting from it to it; although the 1910s give you a new and superior to the 1910s and while jobs of the 1910s, the programs are no better. (Can you believe? I bring back 1910s and 1920s!)

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

are not normally given according to magazines, but the letters of intent of the first two magazines, *Officer's Magazine* (PC), failed on the day of purchase, according to the article.

Under The State of South A.I. 1979 and goods sold in the course of business, right for all impermissible quality. This is defined as being all for the purpose for which they were intended.

Clearly, in his handwriting, even the Commodore PC1 was not of the most remarkable quality. However, you wouldn't expect any product to be on the day of launch, provided it was made in accordance with the company's

In recent years as the chain went with the volume of the brand name collected in Harnden's memory, design says. Of course in Harnden's case there is nothing a new machine that said his name but in fact he was only

Again, the Sale of Goods Act 1979 states that goods sold by description are of that order, grade, quality, etc. must correspond with that description. In other words, the purchase is made by description.

"Your argument that the retailer may have many satisfied customers is, of course, valid, reasonable and false: customers should have a right to know that they are entering a risk in purchasing an expensive item from the store, though imperially taxing just one County Court? And they will be under a false. A satisfied customer should not have to reveal to such consumers to go to the effort to a legally entitled.

Abstract

I feel that Mr. Friedman's experience with LAN-computer systems and the Communications PC is just laid out. I do not know that details of the case is needed but to share my experience with your readers is not a bad thing.

In the post-issue column, by mail, many items ranging from a spare printer ribbon to a spare mouse, a PCMCIA slot 2, a spare PC and Panasonic printers. These were returned as goods, not just as promised and always there had been some problem with the goods.

My thanks go right out the off toping by mail order for even had me. Last October I saw Lee's advert for the Commodore IPC I. I phoned them many times with questions, as I did Commodore. Both were very helpful and able to answer my questions quickly and fully.

Living Late in the afternoon of October 20th and placed my order. The person on the phone said thank for your order, you should receive it in tomorrow. But the other one I thought

After months, and after what, I think, was the longest and most difficult struggle of my life, I have been able to get to the bottom of it, and up to the top of it, in a time, it would hardly have seemed possible to have done so. I have been able to get to the bottom of it, and up to the top of it, in a time, it would hardly have seemed possible to have done so. I have been able to get to the bottom of it, and up to the top of it, in a time, it would hardly have seemed possible to have done so.

1. **Task 1:** Write a program that calculates the sum of the first 10 natural numbers.

Referring to issue 10 "Strong and Sustainable," I totally agree with Ben Hershovitz's letter and think you should produce an article on affordable computer toys with young users automatically exempt from taxes.

If you're faced a County Court judgement against you, you would find it impossible to get credit without therefore find new bank notes causing you lose years of money. Many

Shawcross couldn't build the information upon your creditworthiness, and if they are interested your name will be of coming through your credit with the State Protection Act. In doing you "are told that because a company has failed to comply with the law, it is not a good company" means that all its dealings are suspect," Mullins' Post. In saying that but because Miller mentioned millions of people do not trust the law not a crime person, the same is true, however, personal. I mean and I think that is why it is important that they tell you not to do it. I am not sure they will not do it. I am not sure.

But since the computer gives instant access to readers outside its boundaries, it is the people who say—your good's ability to use computer technology and business, and we should be able to use it.

Should you buy a mattress from either
Safely? Not on your only bed. **Save Here**
Crested Communities

Comparing a software house that designs your system to a shopkeeper who tries to peddle an inferior sales system is like comparing a physician of few medical skills to a university professor who is a medical expert by giving their students answers of confidence, by bringing them scores about the computer science, by providing interesting lectures and so on, all at a reasonable price. He doesn't print out just because the computers want to do it, and that may seem like a very good idea to you and me. We've got a computer watching and don't think we would be doing anything particularly commendable by running an entire city—by giving the computers the specific instructions for running a few miles, scores of thousands of

And no, I wouldn't say it's still clear from the last study either. Because he's a National champion.

is a major breakthrough in animal manufacturing. (The machine that every household has discarded is... helps you budget, stores, organizes, controls your fears, etc. etc.), and it's your car tomorrow - going to you at a 100% mark rate in a 100% condition before going home to your full customer list. 100% then you're probably as old as I am (remember, you're not).

After the argument about which was better, the THX/AC with its nearly plastic case and cheap monitor, or the PLI with stage II Dolby-Cartridge player and key-board, the following years saw endless identical arguments between owners of first "analogues" equipment that he recorded the feelings of, say, most car owners.

Major things changed the requirements, which have evolved and based on comparative approach of number of different countries. Some characteristics

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200)

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I would like to complete good something
but I'm not going to - yet. I agree, it is
a great way and seems that it should

[Did I ask if the relevant schedule page met security and information reqs?] Looking through Xerox magazine, I find eight relevant references for the Archimedes (ignores) and even more for the Flood and Vectorix. What Xerox owners would also buy if Xerox mag is this is only a minor guarantee. Xerox sells Xerox! Their payments wouldn't go into Xerox though.

Prepare to be delayed by letters of protest from NCN readers! You will be pleased to know that the disgruntled influence begins on our cover in NCN's April issue.

CHERRY F. AND CHILD AS FROM
BLACKBOARD PHOTO PAPER.

a wonder if I am your ideal reader! I have a long-term subscription which I use for word processing, and even for playing a few games. At the age of seventy-two I have become a convert to computing, having never been fast over a typewriter. Although I am retired I still need about 10 hours a week for the things I want on my machine.

Today's most popular tool for e-mail management, Microsoft Outlook also lets you store Outlook 97/98 data files directly on your network or intranet as a single file. I know my Outlook programming is still

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How to be a smart consumer

Buying a computer or software? Everyone wants your money: mail order houses, High Street retailers, street traders, even people selling their Christmas presents in the classified ads...

The vast majority of dealers are reliable and professional, but how do you avoid the cowboys? And what do you do when things go wrong? Rik Maynes investigates the dos and don'ts of computer consumerism...



Buying a piece of software should be the buying a record or CD: you pick what you want, pay your money and take your goods home to enjoy. But in practice it's more like that. For a start, you have a choice between sources: should you order cheaply from a mail order house you can't be sure will be there after they've stolen your cheque, or stick with your High Street store, which may not have the first thing about your machine? And what do you do when your deal doesn't work, the program is useless, or you don't even receive what you ordered? Being a smart computer user isn't enough — you need to be a smart consumer too.

Perhaps the best way to be a smart consumer is to find out as much as possible about the product before you attempt to purchase it. This means reading all the press magazines which might review it or pick it in their "best buys" section. Word of mouth can be a good guide too — maybe none of your friends have heard or seen what you're after.

The idea is to give yourself an informed and unbiased opinion on the product before you're introduced to all the sales hype. The more you know about the product, the better you can judge its value, weaknesses and strengths. And the final decision must be as to whether you really

want or need it, and this requires a reasonable amount of thought, especially if it's an expensive item.

Before deciding on the source of purchase, too, avoid — it's expensive — a more desirable price might just be round the corner. When talking to a trader, don't be afraid to ask questions, even if you feel they sound stupid.

Whenever possible, try to use the product before you buy. It may not be the advice that it's "easy and foolproof to use" so that it has "friendly graphics" but the last judge of that will be your own use for a demonstration in the shop, or if possible find someone you know who owns it. This is the acid test, and if you're dissatisfied with any aspect of it, then think it over before you hand over your money.

Behind all payment is also an important factor. For instance, if you pay by credit card you not only have the benefit of being able to pay the amount back up to a month later, but when purchasing a single item costing over £100 you may be able to claim your money back from the credit card company if you have any difficulties with the trader. This is particularly useful if the trader goes out of business. In the other hand, some traders will give a discount if you pay by cash.

Multiple high-street retailer

As computer products have crept through the press, they've become more of a mainstream purchase like a video, Compact Disc player, etc. So where better to buy a computer product than from your local branch of a well-known multiple high-street retailer? But wait, computer products aren't like mainstream, everyday consumer products that manage to attract huge amounts of information, thus requiring a salesperson with a high degree of knowledge about the subject. Surely not the same salesperson who sits with the washing machines, personal stereos and black radios?

So it's better to expect any given retailer — or other sales support in the form of detailed information about your problem. What you can expect is an excellent service when returning faulty items, as multiples have to preserve a high level of customer service in order to survive. Going back and asking how to get take on your worst problem or how to get to level 36 on the game will be a waste of time, but if your disk is faulty they'll give you another straight off the shelf.

Prices will normally be recommended retail prices — or just below — so you won't get money bargains either. Overall, multiples are a just fair,



—an unusual way of purchasing computer products — you will have experienced this already have a little bit about computing. If you're lucky!

Independent retailer

The second type of outlet — your local computer specialist in the Yellow Pages — can be differentiated from the High Street chain store by a lack of waiting machines and posters of pop stars. The advantages of shopping in an independent retailer can mainly be summed up in one word: experience. It's very unusual to find an independent retailer who doesn't know at least a little bit about your particular computer, hardware choices, and its associated range of software and peripherals.

This is the place to go if you want the latest software releases, or more up-to-date information, or intend to buy your computer. Most often, informed after-sales support provided by a usually very knowledgeable and

enthusiastic salesperson.

The drawback, if it occurs, the fact of this service — with prices often likely to be higher out of all the other types of outlet. Though sometimes if you're lucky, you can discover the experience that proves the rule.

Mail order retailer

Mail order advertisements appear frequently in most computer magazines, presenting a wide choice of hardware and software at reasonable prices — quite often a lot cheaper than shop prices. Buying computer products by post gives you the chance to compare prices easily and get the very best deal.

Unfortunately despite the nearly legitimate mail order companies providing an excellent service, there are a few less reputable firms who'll take your money but won't deliver what you ordered goods to hand, or at all.

When buying goods by post, it's a good idea to:

- Use the most recent advertisement — mail order companies constantly update their product range and prices.
- Never send cash by post — use a cheque, postal order or credit card. When paying by cheque write your name and address on the back.
- Use recorded delivery if your order entails a large sum of money.
- Include your name and address in any correspondence.
- Keep a copy of your order and the advert.
- Make a note of the date you send it, and probably most important:

- Please the company beforehand to confirm it has the product in stock. But it is vital you read and that the price is as quoted in the advert. This gives you a chance to weigh it up: if the company name answers the phone or is personally engaged you can buy somewhat safe.
- A company that's been advertising regularly for years will be pretty reliable, or it wouldn't still be in business.
- Goods bought through the post are covered by rules one and two of the consumer legal rights, i.e. goods must be of "satisfactory quality" and "as described". Also if you get a delivery date (or if the advert states one, such as 99 days) when you order the goods, and that date isn't met, you can cancel your order and ask for a refund.

For further information you can obtain the free edition of Fair Trading leaflet, *Buying by post*, from your local consumer adviser or many public libraries.

Street market retailer

Despite their frequent claims to be reliable, street market stalls are known for consumers' legal rights and should therefore provide one of the cheapest ways of purchasing a computer product. The trouble lies in making the average market trader uphold their obligations if the item purchased is faulty. If they do get too busy complaining it's easier for them to move on to another stall than it is for a shop trader.

But bargains can be found — if you're willing to take the risk. Although occasional sales of the second software stall or peripheral can be difficult, it's not impossible — for obvious reasons. Fine for picking a few old budget games, most, but if you buy a second hand PC you have to accept the consequences!

Private sale

Purchasing computer products second hand in a private sale can yield some of the best bargains around. As long as you do business with an honest person.

When purchasing goods privately — perhaps from a friend, or more likely from a classified advertisement in a computer magazine such as ACE or a local newspaper — only rely on the consumer rights advice. The fact that most be



Do you know your rights?

"I know my rights!" is a phrase that everyone hears in one time or another, but not many people actually do know the specifics of their rights.

Consumer legal rights cover any goods bought from a dealer. The term dealer includes high street retailers, independent retailers, other market retailers or mail order retailers. Goods purchased in a sale are also included.

The law has three basic rules:

- Goods must be of "satisfactory quality". Goods must not be broken or damaged and must meet properly. For example, if an engine (computer works perfectly), but the house doesn't start, the goods are not of "satisfactory quality". With animals this can be a tricky problem to interpret. For instance, if you buy a small pet animal which starts to die the day after you get it, you only get a refund if you can prove that the supplier was given general standards of work processing animals that it was not of "satisfactory quality". However it doesn't do this job in many cases, so it's
- Goods must be "as described". If the package, display sign or other describes any of the features of an item that is sold, then that item must contain those features. If you've told a computer dealer with a joystick that the seller must supply a joystick, and if an someone purchases a joystick to be able to use the PC then it must be that to be that.
- Goods must be "fit for any particular purpose". Four particular purposes must be made known to the seller prior to any purchase. If you tell the seller you want an item that produces crashes, then any PC package the seller provides should contain a crash course.

If there's a fault with anything you buy, you should advise the seller at once (because it's the seller — not the manufacturer — who must sort out your complaint).

If any of the three rules of the law have been broken you can:

- Report the goods and get your money back.
- Get a cash payment to make up the difference between what you paid and the reduced value of the faulty goods.
- If you both agree, you may receive a replacement or a full refund.
- Exactly what you are entitled to depends on the seriousness of the fault and the speed at which you inform the seller. In practice you probably should wait to see what a replacement or your money back or long as your problem is resolvable.
- Sometimes goods come with a guarantee. This doesn't affect your legal rights but can offer some form of extra protection. But make sure questions with suppliers is it not not be enforceable in law. Use your local consumer adviser if you have any queries about a particular purchase.

Please note that the above information concerns consumer's legal rights in England and Wales — Scotland and Northern Ireland may have slightly different regulations. For further information you can obtain the following 'Office of Fair Trading' leaflet free of charge from your local consumer adviser or various public libraries.

How to get things right (England and Wales, Fair Shoppers in Northern Ireland)

Case history of a Wally

Wally uses a mail-order catalog for the Atari ST in an ad that may be found and handles it to the day's deadline.

The company is now in financial difficulties and none of the magazines will take ads from them any more. If Wally had read some more up-to-date magazines, he might have guessed this.

Wally sends the cash to the mail order company using normal post.

Three vital tasks in post, then a cheque, postal order or credit card. Use recorded delivery for large sums of money.

Wally continually phones the mail order company from the day after the order was placed.

(You must give the company a reasonable time to deliver the goods, such as 28 days.)

After three months of phoning the mail order company regularly, now mysteriously ceases to answer its phone; the magazine editors tell him the editors (which has not been said when it happened) and the Post Office (who drop any knowledge of the cash being sent, Wally

decides to buy an ST elsewhere.

That night Wally reads a Sunday paper in the local pub when just happens to hear an ST he said. Wally manages to buy the ST and collects it from the pub in the following night. Wally has got the ST home, it doesn't work. Sadly enough, Wally never sees the letter in the pub again.

Buying goods in a private sale is a tricky business, and if possible, you should at least try the goods before purchase. You should definitely know the name and address of the seller.

Wally's third attempt at purchasing a computer goes a little more smoothly when he buys an ST from the local branch of a multiple high-street store. The trouble is he never bother to find out what software it is, and so spends half an hour looking at a blank screen.

(It is to find out as much as you can about a product before you purchase it - read some computer magazines, or talk to any computer-owning friends.)

Wally goes out and buys some software for the Atari. Unfortunately it's for the Atari 8000, not the Atari ST.

Wally's purchasing software that was the most useful of the computer (it is supposed to be).

Wally goes back to the software store who generously agrees to exchange the software for an ST disk. Wally chooses a game and takes it home, doesn't like it and takes it back to the seller demanding a full refund and compensation. A heated argument ensues with Wally threatening physical violence. The seller phone the police who then arrive and escort Wally from the premises.

(If you change your mind about a product you've so wanted to say replacement, refund or compensation. Getting angry doesn't solve a problem. It just helps to escalate it into a bigger one.)

Wally puts the computer on top of the wardrobe and from a suitable dish, beginning to purchase the decoder needed to run the recorded programmes.

(What a Wally!)

"as described" and if it proves to be faulty, your rights will depend on what you and the seller said to each other before purchase, with the important factor being what you were told about the item's condition and value. If you buy a 100,000-odd typewriter described only as "a bargain" and it breaks in thirty days you get a home, that's hard luck. If on the other hand someone tells you an ST described as "new, as new" and it turns in you would be more justified in taking it back to the seller.

When purchasing an item through a private sale, it's usually better to reserve yourself to your local area if you can. The reason for this is three-fold: you're able to inspect the item before purchase, you can take a legal claim to act as a warning this is a distinct advantage when purchasing a really new described as you think it may not finally you'll be able to return the item more easily if it proves to be faulty.

Watching the defectives

Obviously there are going to be items which you purchase on item - whether it's the computer itself, a peripheral or a piece of software - and it proves to be some very defective. In such cases, provided the item breaks one of the three basic rules of consumer rights, the correct procedure for making a complaint is:

- If you using the item.
- Write down notes details concerning the faulty item, such as the date and place of purchase, the actual problem (as clearly as possible), if the item is a piece of software include the model of your

computer etc. This information will be useful to you and the seller in any future dealings.

• Before the seller is seen or possible.

If you order goods from a mail order company and they don't arrive, all you can really do is keep phoning and writing. Keep logs, impossible mail order places can telephone orders because of the sheer volume of business.

If you visit the seller:

- Take the item back to the seller.
- Take a receipt in proof of purchase.
- Ask for the manager or owner.
- Be polite, but firm.
- Buy-order (selling) signs doesn't help anybody.

If you telephone the seller:

- Write down what you want to say beforehand.
- Have enough questions in mind proof of purchase on hand.
- Find out the name of the person you speak to.
- Write down the date and time of the call, and what is said.
- Be polite, but firm.
- Stay calm.

If you write to the seller:

- Keep copies of any correspondence.
- Do not use any original receipts, guarantees or other proof of purchase - send photocopies instead.
- You could use recorded delivery, to prove the letter reached your letter.

Please note that you're not entitled to anything if you:

- Change your mind about wanting the item.
- Exchanged the item when you purchased it and used any original trials.
- Have exchanged when the item broke.
- Created any damage yourself.
- Received the item in a present (the original purchaser must claim).

When the seller is part of a multiple-chain of shops and the local branch closed, help, by contacting the managing director at the head office.

If any of the above strategies fail you can obtain free advice from your local consumer advocate at:

• Trading Standards or Consumer Protection

True stories

Every computer shop contains two true favourite tale of true customers who complain about things explained on page 1 of the manual: a few genuine examples:

"How will I get the point of my ST screen?" Customer inquiring about the Phoenix Farm package included in the Amiga bundle.

"That's why the order was so late." Customer: discovering that you need to use the lead to connect the cassette deck to the computer.

"When it said double-sided disk drive I thought it meant you could put two disks in at the same time." Customer returning an Atari ST with two disks jammed inside the disk drive.

"How are you already got the game, on I wanted it for emergency use?" Customer presenting the original packaged game and a printed copy.

"When I said floppy disk, I thought I had to download the tape-recorder." Customer taking a downloaded 1.5-inch disk.

"It is easy to get personal games on ST?" Customer discovering the problem on the Commodore-Amiga's well-known line.



Departments which investigate false or misleading descriptions in place of goods.

• Citizens Advice Bureau who can help with the most general aspects of consumer problems.

As a last resort, you can sue for the refund of your money or the compensation, it is usually 500%. If your claim is the under 1000 you may well usually be treated by a private and informal arbitrator assisted, with you ability to pay your opponent's legal costs even if you lose. The fee for this can be as much as the size of your claim and appropriate legal aid is obtained from your money must allow. For more details contact your local consumer advice - the Citizens Advice Bureau will be in your Yellow Pages or Thomson directory. ■

Back To Basics

Jason Holbro, a hardened veteran of Amiga programming, tries out two new offerings for BASIC programmers

Replacement BASIC languages were inevitable when the Atari ST was first released. The machine came with a handy version of BASIC that was slow, inflexible, had numerous bugs and was, above all, a real pain to use. The Amiga, on the other hand, offers an implementation that is everything that Atari BASIC isn't: it's fast, fairly flexible and an absolute joy to use. What are those other languages meant for then? Amiga BASIC? Haha! and GFA-BASIC? Sure, they are.

HiSoft BASIC

Amiga • C79.95/cd

HiSoft • The Old School, Greenfield, Bedford MK46 6DE; Tel: (0524) 718181

HIGHLIGHTS
• Includes powerful compiler
• Easy to use
• Fully compatible with AmigaBASIC

DISADVANTAGE
• Doesn't provide enough Amiga syntax options



with a few extra whistles? By doing the perfect fusion. Rather than take the safe option of producing a straight replacement, HiSoft happened to extend the language further, adding on a whole range of extra features while still managing to retain complete compatibility with AmigaBASIC.

The high degree of compatibility with existing BASICs on the ST and Amiga will probably be one of the main selling points of this product, after all, for many reasons AmigaBASIC was a fast enough tool on its own - therefore why should you have to forget all that you've learned and start from scratch? As well as being able to handle AmigaBASIC, HiSoft BASIC will also compile Commodore programs from the PC with minimal effort, even resulting in the main.

The HiSoft BASIC language is a store up to the version of BASIC that looks most well to be structured, as modular programming as it's now referred to. As well as the usual PRINT, NEXT, GOTO, etc., additional structured statements include the likes of DO...LOOP and the

SELECT...CASE construct.

A thought BASIC is simple enough to produce but how well does HiSoft BASIC manage to tap the extra power of the Amiga? Unfortunately, this is an area where HiSoft fail to hit the mark. Amiga specific commands are sparse, and it would have been nice to have seen full ST support built into the package itself. However, HiSoft does seem to include an extra software package called

Extend with all kinds and offer the current offer has required. Extend is a library of routines that includes full support for ST and a whole host of other Amiga specific functions.

The Compiler

Unfortunately this greatest attraction for those of HiSoft BASIC will be the included compiler. Now you can see the compiler is up to you. You can either use it from the CLI, the Workbench or even from within the editor itself.

Two types of output can be generated by the compiler: stand alone or shared library programs. Shared share programs can be stored directly in the Amiga disk, while stand alone programs can be run without having to have access to the other relevant files, but shared library programs will be very much a new concept to AmigaBASIC programmers. It should allow program writers access to a runtime library that must exist within the LMS directory of your hard disk. Shared library programs do however have the advantage of being considerably smaller than stand alone programs.

Documentation

As with all HiSoft products, the manual is clearly written and informative and an example of how a computer manual should really be written. Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned pro, the GFA-BASIC manual contains all information you will require, organized in a clear and logical manner.

GFA BASIC

Amiga • C34.95/cd

MicroWorld • Box 68, St Asaph, Conwy, LL25 47S; Tel: (0524) 680300

Anyone used to using an old ST will be no stranger to GFA BASIC. On the ST, GFA was probably one of the most popular of all the alternative BASICs available. Many commercial ST packages have been written in the language because of the speed and simplicity. With the release of Amiga GFA, the product set to achieve the same popularity on the ST's rival.

Features

GFA BASIC has always been regarded as a powerful BASIC, and this Amiga implementation certainly isn't going to change that view. Unfortunately, this power is gained at a price: compatibility. GFA is quite noticeably slower than AmigaBASIC. While this was OK on the ST (most users probably didn't bother with Atari BASIC anyway), the situation is very different on the Amiga. AmigaBASIC is very usable and many will never having to forget what it's already learned.

While support for structured programming is essential, it's hard to beat GFA. The language is probably better than HiSoft's product in this department, as it includes all constructs found in HiSoft BASIC and a few more besides.

Amiga specific commands of first great extension, until you realize that there isn't really a great deal there that AmigaBASIC doesn't already offer.

Why buy another BASIC?

AmigaBASIC is not of the best implementation of BASIC, mainly due to the fact in my opinion, is why would you want to consider going to another BASIC when Commodore's offering seems to do the job perfectly adequately?

The main reason that most people would consider purchasing another BASIC is so that they can produce stand alone programs. But it, programs that do not need to be loaded may as intended to be run. And if that compiler happens to also extend the language in some way and is faster than the existing BASIC, well all the better. HiSoft BASIC includes an excellent compiler that will allow you to do that and that what about GFA? It hasn't got a compiler and it isn't fast. AmigaBASIC-compatible. Why buy GFA in that case? Is you like me.

The Compiler

As a contemporary wasn't enough, the recent is still in some, as GFA-BASIC doesn't even include a compiler. It can have programs in included that run in GFA, in some. For the time, though, GFA is working on a compiler for version 3. But as a compiler doesn't even exist for the Macintosh,

HiSoft couldn't say expect to have to wait a considerable amount of time for this to arrive. This of course will also include some programs (probably the main price as the interpreter itself is still pricing on the Atari as anything to go by.

Documentation

The GFA manual seems very hard to be a rather professional looking two books. The only real fault with the manual is the amount of information presented, quite a few pages are less than half full of text, and even worse is there does tend to be rather quantity of text.

Conclusion

For which reason you go for HiSoft or GFA? Both are fast and highly structured languages, and you could save certainly work considerably with either.

Unfortunately, GFA just doesn't seem to quite fit in the Amiga market in the same way as it did with the Atari, it's too structured, contains numerous bugs and doesn't as yet possess a compiler.

HiSoft BASIC on the other hand has got a great deal going for it, it's fast, highly portable, includes a compiler and with that, the need to be finished (as it were) is to quite simply the best available on the Amiga. It's not even on the Amiga.



HIGHLIGHTS
• Extensive structured programming features
• Compatibility

DISADVANTAGES
• Does not include a compiler
• Structured language
• Does not include AmigaBASIC-compatible
• Relatively slow in some areas

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The Man of War

How one man fought his way from concentration camp to multi-national; Giorgi Merghab describes the remarkable life of Jack Tramiel, founder of Commodore, now head of rival Atari...

The Jack Tramiel story is for the stuff of the American Dream: born of a nightmare, by being used the corpse to escape detection, he survived the unspeakable horrors of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Prisoners had suffered hundreds of Polish still became the multi-millionaire founder of global success such as Commodore and then Atari.

Having lost all of his immediate family, he was smuggled out of Nazi Germany, where he in the future and subsequently adopted by a Polish Jew. There, he started a small tape-recorder repair shop in the Bronx, manufacturing as a last device to being in more cash. Typewriters became computers, selling business manufacturing and was the IBM, the Xerox and the IBM. Commodore became a billion dollar firm.

For that reduction purposes, this sounds like a classic rags-to-riches ladder for a TP into success. Certainly a path to share the success of the equivalent, the Atari Super role of business being (although they turned computer king, but unfortunately for the publisher TP children, Tramiel is a far from gentle man. He was a graft rack, brutal and then playful, creative businessman, his philosophy in "business is war" - and his constant mental violence show his intense business.

"Through every chain of a word or two, there is

one syllable that Tramiel has never considered open publicly. His remarkable reputation from Commodore. Within days of the national company celebration about taking one billion dollar sales, on January 1985, 1984 - Friday the 13th - he abruptly resigned in the middle of a board meeting. That meeting was still in progress in New York as Tramiel was getting out to California and apparently to retirement.

Various tales as rumors will, but the most credible explanation for the extraordinary resignation involves around his plans to launch a Tramiel Group. There were strong rumors that IBM, one number one, would come in as a partner. Then there was Gary, with a financial role being named out for him.

Comparing the financial two was located, who would have been out of some coffee a factor. For Commodore, it was a question of like father, but not really being the same. In Tramiel's case, never out of his mind, departed.

In 1981, after a tough life and with the late position, Commodore was of \$100 million, listed in his back pocket. Tramiel tried to pay the role of the offshore American company, the world. But a three month process left him found, the same was that which is the target of raising for the rest of his life.

Warner tell you a story

Warner is the Hollywood tradition, up proper relations in the form of Warner Brothers, desperately seeking money for his new business venture Atari. The firm was being money like there was no today, but other business. To see one dollar a shareholder, but in his time \$100 million of them in a last really is quite an achievement.

But from Tramiel's point of view, this could have been simple money, but it was from his one and only factor: MIB. He had to plan to make the computer would unless he had to be a specific role to play. The Japanese then provided just what a business. Like many others in early 1984, Tramiel was worried at the prospect of a second round. Japanese companies were then meeting with Microsoft to produce a cheap computer standard. Sure, it's been clear for more than three years that the IBM revolution failed to happen, but in 1984 the world would say different. There was a need to fight the good fight, and



• Jack Tramiel - the Commodore face is not inappropriate. He believes in keeping it in the family, the Commodore are all up to his position in Atari

when it comes to fighting for his own needs Tramiel.

And so he brought the rising Atari in a friendly competition, business agreement which in effect meant to last year Warner \$100 million in 1984. The included some \$100 million debt being to Atari. He subsequently managed not to make John Warner payments on time - and then renegotiated these demands in any case. The Atari attack is no accident that he was possible profits possible businessmen to be located into perfectly incompatible deals. On such the same basis, he later made a good bet on the fact that the same degree of computer production that this or that technology breakthrough really will be available next month.

The victory of Tramiel at the helm of Atari allowed. It had been there to close to the edge by the collapse of the video games industry, which in fact had been progressing to the exceptionally aggressive sales and marketing practices adopted by the star Tramiel had Commodore. Having wrapped the heat, Tramiel was then to be run as the revolution.

Further, his name had walked all over the new company, with him maintaining the highest level as president of his father's firm. Far from suffering as Commodore had predicted, the advent of the new was coincided with the prospects of the company. Atari came to the management of Atari was the part played by Warner Commodore said. In all, under \$100 million over in the first few months following the Tramiel move. The majority of them in short positions. Since then, the promising has continued. The 1984 year, for example, is expected with Atari Commodore people from the managing

Revealing facts

Throughout 1984, Tramiel has established an exact picture. This means that some still are at liberty to discuss new products at length with the public world. In some limited degree at almost equal policy of neither suffering nor allowing anything, and where Commodore denies pretty much everything and it eventually happens, that fact is over or slightly worse to everything of his last year.

Since the 1984 has been divided into months, now, with no sign of the new machine, leaving the 1984 console, and in a three month the 1984 console. The policy in that backing that's ability to be proven, demonstrate, give first glimpses of, and then finally launch any new products several times over. The 1984 year, for example, has been covered for the first time of 10 new ideas that it's now regarded as one of the more serious highlights in the industry calendar.

It was all ramp up the interest in all things Atari, but the highly product line are waiting to come leaving that another New Big Thing is just around the corner.

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Microsoft and Compaq, which reside the bed of an on-line magazine, CDS is now like an on-line user group meeting.

Instead of being told like this, CDS is broken into conference rooms where you can, 'You think this takes part in a discussion on whatever topic is going - maybe advanced features of the 80486 processor, or the increasingly volatile 'C' or 'Modula-2' languages, or the relations and interactions of these available for the Atom 85.

CDS appears to be heavily used by industry insiders - professional programmers, software publishers, hardware designers, technical consultants - in if you have a technical appetite for the hardware, high-tech magazine CDS could be a good choice.

Bunch of MUGs

Multi-user games have become one of the best reasons for going on-line. Unfortunately, they can be the quickest way to bankruptcy.

The original was MUD - the Multi-User Dungeons - in which you played a technomagic hero using patterns released, in a more or less novel adventure game. What was definitely abnormal about MUD was that the characters you encountered during your travels were not computer-controlled but were the alter egos of other real people involved about the country. That's the 'multi-user' part of the title.

MUD has now been joined by several newcomers. In addition to the adventure format, a massive relation - created by Compaq's Federation - is the wider your way to social, rather-and-computer-the-games format. Again, user representatives are not dynamic of the computer's imagination but are running, sometimes people from like you.

The appeal of MUGs is that they all, you against other people which makes for a tougher and more realistic game. The appeal of MUGs which is definitely not appealing is the cost, since every

minute you're playing, BT is making up the costs.

HEALTH WARNING: Playing MUGs can seriously damage your bank account. Quarterly 30000 bills of £200 to £240 are not unheard of.

Email: the superior species?

There are now some half a dozen services offering ways of sending and receiving messages from your computer, and whilst each of these offers its features and drawbacks including extensive mail for a small price, mine and his.

The letters and fax services are simple variations of the non-computer equivalents. Email is the computerised version of sending someone a letter: you write it, post it via the on-line version of your choice, and it is sent to the appropriate mailbox.

The catch is that, once the service has been set up, many e-mail addresses now pay for days without checking their mailboxes for incoming messages so you might as well have used a TPO stamp and sent a letter old-fashioned way.

Email isn't cheap either. There are subscription charges ranging from 10 to 150 per month, connection charges (before your computer and transmitting your messages) of around 10p per minute, plus your normal fax or telex charges too. If you're in the region of e-mail messages you also have to pay for storage on the main system.

Perhaps the main drawback to e-mail is the fact that so few people are equipped for it and of those that are, a large number are computer industry outsiders - journalists, manufacturers and politicians, teachers, and so on.

For further information on e-mail and related services, ask the relevant suppliers (see below).

One-to-One	01 754 4444
BT Direct	0800 000700
Exelcom	0402 705 12
Memory	01 526 2500
Microsoft	0404 000000

Technobabble

A weekly search on computer jargon

Comms part II

Signal Converter

Three directional terms refer to the process of moving data - usually programs, but also including messages - between your computer and the host. Everything happens in reference to the host system, so when you send something to the host you're 'uploading'. 'Download' is simply traffic in the other direction.

Garble

Not a variety of food to be used when your system freezes. A carrier is part of the signal transmitted by a modem which allows another modem to recognise that it is talking to one of its own and not some nasty foundation screaming 'Wrong number' into the phone.

BUT

The British Approvals Board for Telecommunications (in relation to British Telecom) is the body responsible for making sure that the gadgets owned up by the computer industry aren't going to destroy the nation's telephone network. When it's satisfied it issues the equipment with a sticker bearing a green circle. Equipment not approved carries a red triangle.

Disapproval isn't illegal, although not in the normal sense of the word. The manufacturer is legally entitled to make it, the dealer is legally entitled to sell it, and you are legally entitled to own it. It's just illegal to use it and if you're caught - 'Your son is naughty', in Cockney and 'babe might expense it.

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THE GUARANTEE NOT TO CASH CHECKS ON OVERDRAFT CARS AND GOODS REMAINS.

● The arrival of *Life and Death* at our offices this week did prove to inject a certain humour into what can only be described as a fairly average bunch of releases. The smooth-scroll screeching of *Super-Hang On* came out tops with *Hitman's* loyalties divided between the kick-em-to-death-em-up, *Dragon Ninja*, and the total-everything-in-sight-em-up, *Hybris*. Needless to say we didn't let him anywhere near *Life and Death*.

SUPER HANG-ON

ELECTRIC DRUMS

Amiga • C128/Mod
Also on ST, C64, CPC, Spec



— Turbo, or not turbo... either way, you'll shake them! Would have made clearing up on the painted product!

The Amiga version of this great ST favourite never lets the hammer and bits for jobs-painting in the road wars, for there's plenty of extra, but it shifts faster than the wind, speed-up from the start, you're over them. At a blistering rate of 17 frames per second, actually.

◆ GAMEPLAY

There are five versions in the game — *Beginner*, *Junior*, *Senior* and *Expert* — represented by 1 out of 40 stages of track situated in Africa, Asia, America and Europe respectively.

Knows time at the end of each stage helps proving the fun by adding another thirty seconds to the life you start out with, but the difficulty is carefully treated so you'll keep coming back for more. A turbo can be put in by hitting the right mouse button, and providing you're going fast (not the supercharges you get up to around 200 mph). As the speed you can barely control the bike, never mind design the other riders you compete against. A lot of the time is consequently spent looking up your speed again after being rammed from behind or spinning headlong into roadside obstacles. It's all a race

against the clock — the key is in becoming familiar with the controls.

◆ GRAPHICS AND SOUND

The impression of speed, like animation and coloured backgrounds are all phenomenal — cutting in the turbo delivery some of the fastest screen updates yet seen on an Amiga. There are nine three levels of scrolling background compared to the ST version's two. Sound is very impressive too, being sampled straight from the audio version, not the formula, and you feel the Doppler effect of other riders' bikes coming past is clear.

◆ OTHER VERSIONS

Apart from the CPC rating, which features poor sound and drive control, all other versions are well above average, with the ST one coming out tops. The Amiga version is marginally faster and noticeably smoother than the C64's slow and of course seems much faster in the audio department. This is no straight conversion!

◆ EXPRESS VERDICT

A superior racing game which is clearly ahead of the competition in terms of audio, visuals, highly addictive and named only by the fact that it's possible not difficult, but then when did difficulty date appear?

★★★★

Andy Shaw

DRAGON NINJA

OCEAN

CPC • C128/Mod
Also on Spec, C64, ST, Amiga



◆ Plenty of screen-splatters when

Dragon Ninja is a conversion of the popular Data East coin-op, and is another in the long line of martial-arts kick-em-to-death-em-ups.

◆ GRAPHICS

Dragon Ninja lets you take on the role of a shrewdhouse human, travelling through a horizontally-scrolling obstacle course of your opponents that don't control you.

Using a variety of kicks, punches and any weapons you can pick up, you'll discover and fight a myriad of martial-arts moves including disarming, flame attacks, missile guard dogs and armoured warrior enemies. In the end of each level you'll meet a tougher form of each known as a *Final Master*, which requires an extra dose of kung-fu before any further progression into the game is possible.

◆ GRAPHICS AND SOUND

Perhaps *Dragon Ninja's* most striking visual element is the amount of on-screen action at any one time, which amazingly doesn't detract from the overall speed. The sprites are varied, individually coloured and defined and expertly animated — and are complemented by dense and professional backdrops.

Audio contains functional sound-effects and a subtle, ambient soundtrack assisted by a New Wave influenced flourish.

◆ OTHER VERSIONS

After came the early introductions of the other versions of *Dragon Ninja* and they're looking very promising. We're looking forward to getting our hands on the latest releases.



◆ Don't get hit by the truck



◆ Controlling one of the Ninja Masters

◆ EXPRESS VERDICT

Dragon Ninja is a credible and battle conversion of the martial-arts, and continues Ocean's magnificent use of martial-arts releases like *Samurai Spirit*, *Kobunji* and *Samurai*.

Clearly one of the most good-looking and playable beat-em-ups on the CPC too, *Dragon Ninja* would make a welcome addition to any budding Ninja's software collection.

★★★★

Ed Haynes

HYBRIS

DISCOVERY SOFTWARE INTERNATIONAL, USA

Amiga • C128/Mod
Hybris version known

Hybris is a vertically-scrolling shoot-em-up similar to the brilliant coin-op, *Force Fire*, and is imported by Discovery, Unit 1, Road at 7 Washington Road, Sandhurst, Surrey GU24 0AH. Tel: (0245) 807430.

◆ GAMEPLAY

Taking control of a near-machined space fighter, your mission is to seek out a missing colony. Easy enough.



◆ Coming up to a ground emplacement, gun or shooting

you might think, but first you'll have to destroy a multitude of alien spacecraft and ground emplacements all waiting to test your mission of mercy in space as possible.

It's probably a good job that you can pick up some extra money doing the job, helping you to blast these buggers in their tracks.

■ **GRAPHICS AND SOUND**
Hydra seems one of a high quality throughout, comprising excellent techniques backed up by an assortment of conventional conventions, but nevertheless impressively well done.

Audio is also engaging, with dramatic sound and effects accompanied by an upbeat and entertainingly catchy soundtrack.

■ **OTHER VERSIONS**
No details of any other versions of Hydra are currently available.

■ **EXPRESSION VERDICT**
Hydra is another great release from Discovery Software - the latest of the excellent Squad of Solon - and is definitely the most pleasing Amiga vertically-sliding shooter we've seen to date. Gameplay has the right balance between difficulty and actually allowing progression through the many different levels. A great "shooty" (you're first again) - CD, Hydra is certainly worth checking out.

☆☆☆☆

Mike Haynes

GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT

ACCOLADE

PC - CD-ROM
Out out on CD



■ **EXPRESSION VERDICT**
If you love your big, adrenaline-fueled game of Grand Prix, this is a top-notch release.

After releasing Ferrari Formula One and Test Drive, Accolade returns to the track for a major turbo turbo and look out to establish themselves in the grander PC Motors.

■ **GAMEPLAY**
You have a range of cars at your disposal to take you around eight international circuits including Monaco, Silverstone and Silverstone with competing against one other drivers. You can choose to drive for McLaren, Ferrari and Ferrari and attempt to handle the corresponding vehicles - a Honda Turbo, a 48 Ferrari and a 412 Ferrari. Though their performance differences with the five possible cars mean you have a degree of control from the almost automated selection of the lowest level to the hyperactive top end, Accolade also has a number of race rules, single races and the Championship Circuit, which gives you against the season's best competitors. The overall result is not so much a tedious test as a fun of fun and tests.

■ **GRAPHICS AND SOUND**
It's safe to say for a PC racing game, which is surprising, since most rely on simulating action to a degree where slow motion sequences are dispensed by the wealth of detail. Here, though, color and animation are well presented and make Grand Prix Circuit look great, especially in 3D mode.

■ **OTHER VERSIONS**
It's out on CD-ROM some time soon, though we haven't seen any advance copies.

☆☆☆☆

EXPRESSION VERDICT

Not to see a PC game that actually shifts at a pace for once, and where you're not waiting for the best ahead of you to be killed by the nearest alien? It's by no means a Grand Prix simulator, it's good fun and worth a look for any PC owner wanting a turbocharged game to show off their machine's speed.

☆☆☆☆

Andy Storer

SOLDIER OF LIGHT

ACCOLADE

Amiga - CD-ROM
Also on Spec, CD, ST
Under development on CMC



Soldier of Light is a commendable of the cult Taito shoot, which featured a character and original ideas matched by uncompromisingly tough gameplay.

■ **GAMEPLAY**
SOI is a horizontally-sliding shoot-up with you controlling Sam, a sophisticated soldier equipped with rocket-launcher armor and pistols, sent out to destroy all alien forces in the galaxy.

You first decide which planet you want to clean up next. Then it's down to business blasting anything that moves, hanging from the standard alien host under a huge alien host. Luckily you'll find extra ammo in the way which increase your firepower when collected. And you'll need it.

■ **GRAPHICS AND SOUND**
The most glaring feature of SOI, is its fantastic look, which is not only visually great but also very colorful. The art style is a mix of the atmosphere of the game and the excellent impression of the character's power. There are also some really defined, being both a character and a game.

Audio is far less impressive, with only a few sound effects applied to a vocal singer by the Taito soundtrack - although even this gets boring after a while.

■ **OTHER VERSIONS**
Spectrum SOI was the first version to be released, back in Spring '88, and is a reasonable conversion. The CMC version is a quite playable, with most of the original slightly more by the limited play area. ST SOI has very disappointing audio quality, but contains identical visuals to the Amiga version. No release date has been set for the CMC version.

■ **EXPRESSION VERDICT**
SOI is quite a decent shoot-up with bright, colorful and attractive visuals, underpinned by a reasonable idea. It's a little more on the line of the fact that SOI contains less than a good game, but the overall result, that's a decent one. It's a decent one. It's a decent one. It's a decent one.

☆☆☆☆

Mike Haynes

HOSTAGES

WORMEYES

PC - CD-ROM
Also on ST and Amiga



It's not about to start looking like a shoot-up and a shoot-up.

Infamously, later PC release uses anti-terrorism strategy to take the release as you command an elite French SAS squad in a bid to storm an embassy and rescue captives.

■ **GAMEPLAY**
You have to place your marksmen at safe vantage points around an embassy in preparation for a further move to be sent in by helicopter. Leading them by yourself, you dodge the terrorist snipers and machine gun fire as they wait the perimeter. Once in place, you fire to a target's eye and the Embassy remains and attempt to take out the occasional figure you might see behind the glass. You then take the role of the sniper and shoot down and through a window.

Once inside you also proceed to take behind the scene of a mission. A small map indicates your position and that of any one of the 14 terrorists in the building. From then on it's down to making them move in and attempting to cut in half anyone you come across before they do the same to you. As the mission progresses and you get to the end of the line, you'll be walking in your own and find yourself to find out all about the host and the host.

■ **GRAPHICS AND SOUND**
The graphics aren't bad for a PC running VGA, with excellent backgrounds, most of the Embassy relatively fast screen updates (the effect of compensating the screen) and some really good and the game of doing that - what else would you expect from a game that deals with a death squad going about its everyday business?

■ **OTHER VERSIONS**
Both the ST and Amiga versions look and sound great and are a little ahead of the PC release, but that's only to be expected.

■ **EXPRESSION VERDICT**
Quite a good looking in the PC, don't get us wrong, though maybe a little ahead of the computer department. Worth a look if you want to see the game and of low entertainment cost with the game and what we can only assume to be a decent of any game.

☆☆☆☆

Andy Storer

MINI GOLF

WAGE SYSTEMS

ST - CD-ROM
Also on CMC, Amiga

Mini Golf is yet another golf game, this time brought to us by German-based Magic Bytes and



• Selecting the angle for the next shot

distributed in this country by Gremlin.

◆ GOLFPLAY

You have to guide your golf ball through courses of varying difficulty, choosing the right angle to pocket the ball in or free mazes as possible, using the walls to reflect the ball around the many obstacles that block.

The view of the action is seen from above, but there's an option to view the player from other angles before you make any final decisions on your tactics for that particular hole.

◆ GRAPHICS AND SOUND

Realistically, results have had to been really impressive to make this game stand up. It's unfortunate that this isn't in fact, being much different variations, and are certainly better for the standard set by Acorn's 6502 Gold's Leadwinds.

Realistic representations of the courses make the game look more like a game of golf or soccer and are enhanced by some quality sound effects.

◆ OTHER VERSIONS

The Amiga version is, for similar in feel and audio-visuals to the ST version, albeit with some improvements in quality. The C64 version is okay, but still not great enough. There are no other versions planned.

◆ EXPERTS' VERDICT

MiniGolf is a reasonable concept totally ruined by poor implementation. It and just doesn't stand up against the popular Leadwinds series of golfing games. Stay clear of this release.



Rick Haynes



• Software framework used for future live operating machine

The purveyors of *Chaosmaster 2000* certainly enjoy a good heavy into the more mature realms of gaming and strategy. Life and Death finds you in that role of a corrupt cop to perform a number of operations.

◆ GOLFPLAY

After seeing on a doctor, your first job is to go from town to town, diagnosing patients' conditions - most of them are suffering from abnormal pains of some kind. With your mouse you pick various areas of their stomachs and see how with green and yellow as they appear. You then decide whether to observe, operate, administer medication, a tip or ultra-sound the

patient. Some moral visual evidence of today's gross or whatever, while the other options are met with a positive head support who informs you of the success or diagnosis.

Obviously, though, you're doing to operate on someone, and soon or later you enter the theater and prepare to stick the knife in. Your victim's abdomen is exposed, you pump them full of drugs, then they go up a time, and go to work with a scalpel. It's at the point they usually die. Unless you're a medical student, you probably won't have the time also what to do about most the medical. If you touch the right and where in another, half an hour later half of four-breasts will be dead.

◆ GRAPHICS AND SOUND

Some of the animated sequences are incredibly primitive and slow, but then the game is really about interactive medical treatment, which doesn't normally happen at great speed in any case. Sound is pretty disappointing too, with groans and death-throes only barely distinguishable from the wails of the most incoherent of baby animals.

◆ OTHER VERSIONS

The Amiga version is by far the most gruesome of the range, with truly outrageous fast screams accompanying all another inflicted on.

◆ EXPERTS' VERDICT

Something of an oddity of horror, *Chaosmaster Simulator* might have been a better idea, but if you're into human dissection then this is the one for you. Of course, you may not be interested in medicine.



Andy Barker



• Realistic-looking players man-of-war in the center of the pitch is a fast coverage...



• Realistic-looking players man-of-war in the center of the pitch is a fast coverage...

So please the gaming what type of game *Advanced Rugby Simulator* is...

◆ GOLFPLAY

After playing the standard mode of the 'Football' type team rugby league sports simulation game.

Using play you control a whole team, with the player under current control being highlighted by a cursor. The player's aim is to pass or kick in a particular subgoal game of rugby, but the features of rugby are more, including setpieces, scrums and line-out tactics. There are also many options which allow you to tweak various attributes of the game, such as choosing one of a possible 17 team policies (the tactics the other players in your team adopt during the game).

The only really novel feature of *ARSG* is the character who occasionally shows up.

◆ GRAPHICS AND SOUND

Visuals vary slowly from the competent, between-game screens to the chronically underused player action. The strange combination of scrolling, perspective and still screen play doesn't work very well, tending to distort the flow of the game. If they had been better implemented and more attractive, the game would have been greatly improved.

Audio is the worst aspect of the game, without a single digitized word, groan or scream to be heard (apart from, occasionally, and restricted to non-the sounds which would be better off in a sound simulation effect, another *Chaosmaster* game). - 1/4

◆ OTHER VERSIONS

Code Master's already has the budget title International Rugby Simulator for the Spectrum, C64 and PC, but Amiga and PC versions of *ARSG* are unlikely at the present time.

◆ EXPERTS' VERDICT

Code Master's presentation with "simulator" games can go wrong at times, but this time they've managed to make a proper simulation game. Still, rugby fans wanting to maximize their knowledge sport on the ST will probably enjoy *ARSG*, but for other ST gamers there's not a lot to be kept you interested for long.



Rick Haynes



• 'Yes...extraordinary' (it only it was)



• 'Yes...extraordinary' (it only it was)

REMARKABLE The most popular TV sports quiz test, watched by 1.8 million viewers each week, makes it the number one show in the nation. It's a reflection of the sporting community, it's a reflection on the British public or it's a measure of David Coleman's role as a screen goal of the night.

◆ GOLFPLAY

Yes, you read your team through Coleman's masterly slightly ludicrous in a game played into six rounds of questions based on sports trivia. You can play against the computer, another player or with three players per team. The rounds feature four-point multiple choice questions from the picture board, history, geography, science and trivia, and each round, and each team, to the game follows exactly the same format as the last. Two points are awarded for correct answers, minus one for time or answering wrongly. It's over to the other team for one point. And...and...and, that's it. It's over to the other team for one point.

◆ GRAPHICS AND SOUND

The ST version is quite novel in as far as its screen displays its own mode more digitized (not of the players with the (colored) records of medium size. Screen updates are quick enough, but as with most quiz games the graphics are unimpressive. Sound is nothing to the other-worldly modern style and sound of the TV program.

◆ OTHER VERSIONS

The C64 version is okay in the graphics and sound department, with graphics replaced by hand-drawn animations, and lacks the Spectrum's really unimpressive efforts looking somewhere in a digitized fog.

◆ EXPERTS' VERDICT

REMARKABLE It's probably the most sporting aspect of the game, which is to play it with to improve their. Probably someone you know, too. Otherwise it's a question of asking for another round of questions to test in and see "What happens next?"



Andy Barker

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TABLE 1

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Andy Storer kills time...and just about everything else he comes across



THE RUNNING MAN

It deals with the eye-popping dollar volume of the telecommunications rail market in 2014, and reaching around your offerings to insert a 10 game show. Watched live by millions, you find all attacks from various 2014-2015 future timing for designers and users before the studios. It features different levels, showing this will be available on all formats, and the large presentation shows off the total volume of the company.



Albanian Sign includes numerous, famous and popular old and new games locally - *Viteza*, *Shqiptari*, *Shumë e Re* - and is a "complete" product one featuring multiple old and new games and up to 1000 characters at any one time. As a special final bonus to users, there is also a funniest game included. For additional details the reader may:

[illegible]

Apple has released on the iPad summer, the new iOS 6.0 version of the famous Cupertino tool. However, through the August 2012 iPad Store, you can already download the book's *Black Mirror* atmosphere, the graphics on these last don't look much more than a slight port, which is a shame, since the makers of *Black Mirror* were undoubtedly a great opportunity to show off the Apple's custom iPad and further. Hopefully the *Black Mirror* issue will make some sense.



THE JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT INQUIRY, 17(4) 439-450

Stains, Lady Penelope, Peter and their pump slanders
 (pumped them) who paid those pathetic pennypence
 Ma's the third - I'll be the laziest. There's family feuds
 as the King's scolding grates, shatters as you gaze
 Then against the red membranes of The Wind, their
 archness. Your aim is to cope with calamities
 emergency situations which, says I'll put in my P&G
 out, they, says I'll



CAPTION: FIG. 200. 2000. 2000.

Over about six 1/2 and Aringo is the simultaneous 2-player, first-to-1000 points, using an collaborative effort from the Progressives, stable. Here you're a member of the Queens' Grand Highlanders and go against the convention. (Barker focus on the battle through 12 levels of split screens which, while taking computer enough, don't appear to feature the usual Progressive's trademark of each player's own screen.)



After the great consensus of the original to the U.S. comes the sequel, which compares the other two levels of the archive base. A notebook labelled through current as "Landscapes," *Space Warrior*, 2 parts of objects will be (U+U) before the second session. And on the Archive too they were.



HELP!

New recruits

I am looking into computerizing the membership records of a club of which I am secretary.

One user that depends on me is the Data Protection Act. Can you advise me where I might find details of the Act's requirements, and what I must do if I start putting people's names and addresses in a computer.

Al Cherry, Gough Heath, Devon

• The Data Protection Act specifically exempts data held by clubs provided that the club is not being run for a commercial purpose. Is putting names, addresses, and other club-related information on computer does not require you to register under the Act.

If you need further details on your local

library which should have all the information you need.

HELP!

MSXplanations?

I have a Saturn BBC 100 MSX computer and an Amstrad GEM 2000 printer. I bought a copy of Ingham's *MSX-Plus* (aka *MSXplanations*) some months ago and then so far have been unable to transfer the characters from the Designer or Composer programs to the Message program for printing suggestions?

John Lawrence

• In about 1986 I wrote this and got it to the MSX community since I have never heard of your problem(s) software. Any MSX-using readers who have any help to offer on this subject

should write to Peter Fox.

HELP!

MSXplus drive

May I congratulate you on an excellent magazine before I prompt you to answer my problem.

Yes, I am another MSX owner who purchased a PC MC20 as the main drive. (The drive was enough to do my work, so I don't get lost.) And it is possible to use it for filing, financial planning and a keyboard interface? P.A. King, Cardiff, Cardiff



• Again I have to ask you to look at department in chapter 100. However, by 'interface' I assume you mean a 105 disk drive and not the MSXbus. Any doubts regarding it, contact me.

Model 3.07 drives will be around £100 to £150. Whether you can attach one to your PC10 depends on whether it has a suitable interface block on its module.

The only supplier of MSX goodies I know of address for is Lightbulb. 115 Albert Road, Chelmsford, Essex. You can find out more and see what they have available, and again if any MSX users have specific information on this question, please let us know.

HELP!

Any part in an ST?

I am into the range of buying a computer system, in particular the 520 1270 which I feel is a very good buy.

But on appreciating local conditions I can get no information on a 1988 part (similar to the BBC's 5022 1988) I would like to get as one of the requirements of my new machine.

I would welcome any advice on the subject? You can give me, if the 12 does not qualify, is there another comparable machine?

John Paul, Sydney

• Since you don't say what you want to be part for its difficult to be specific, but the 51 has attached external hardware support for storage, video and audio digitizing, and most other standard peripherals.

The 5022 is not selling directly equivalent to the BBC Model 1988 yet, although the cartridge port can be used to drive external devices (many options use the cartridge port).

Potentially more useful about the 51 expansion but built in to the Mega 12, but they are considerably more expensive than the 5022 or 5023 1988.

The design has similar difficulties and you have to go to the 5020 series for a low expansion line, the 4000 being broadly similar to the 5023 in this respect.

Most of all hardware expansion, tape drive control, and so on are PCs, which imply the well-supported PC expansion bus. Interface cards are readily available for analog/digital conversion, industrial control, 622 440 adapters, and digital I/O.

HELP!

Learning to type

Some time ago we bought a Commodore 64, complete with disk drive and printer. Part of the strategy was to learn to type on a typing tutor that I bought from the shop (see other user for a difficulty in using).

Since then we have tried to learn with a program, but we've had no luck. Can you help? BB/Cassidy, Banford, Dorset

TIPS Amiga Assistance

Having just read your recent feature on installing problems, I feel myself obligated to think that you have given a bad solution to a very easy problem. I am talking about the "Working and Not Working" part of your feature. The solution you give is for first aid for several months, but, as you state, this will rapidly lead to a bad magazine user trying about of memory space, records, it is messy and time consuming. The more you do the 2 directory has had useful PC's especially about the solution is recommended.

Purchase a PC disk containing a mouse utility and launch all large and independently used files (Programs) in a good candidate for pointers. From you will save 25.00 per cent more disk space. Consider all printer drivers and programs that are not used before this upgrade.

Enter the CL and type:

DE:00000000

Create the following for

Enter "Clipping commands to 500 00"

File Edit

Copy (F1) to 500 00

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Master Key 1

Master Key 2

Master Key 3

Master Key 4

Master Key 5

Master Key 6

Master Key 7

Master Key 8

Master Key 9

Master Key 10

Master Key 11

Master Key 12

Master Key 13

Master Key 14

Master Key 15

Master Key 16

Master Key 17

Master Key 18

Master Key 19

Master Key 20

Master Key 21

Master Key 22

Master Key 23

Master Key 24

Master Key 25

Master Key 26

Master Key 27

Master Key 28

Master Key 29

Master Key 30

Master Key 31

Master Key 32

Master Key 33

Master Key 34

Master Key 35

Master Key 36

TECH TIPS

• Sorry, Mr. Oswald, the shoot I can't. I have a major installation of a typing tutor program for the CIA about three or four years ago, but I haven't seen a replacement anywhere for sale since then.

My resources turned up suitable programs on the PC and the Macs, but nothing on the C64. Perhaps one of Expert's readers could help...

HELP!

Meeting specs

I urgently require a computer for my work at the end of January and I don't know which computers are suitable. I have been given the following specification:
512K RAM, single disk drive, PC.

TIP ST-PC link

I noted in issue 6 of *Expert* that Neil Murray is interested in ST/PC compatibility. The speed problem you mention only affects 5.25 drives. There are no more PCs with 5.25 drives than that the problem is much reduced.

There is another reason why PCs cannot read disks created by the ST desktop format option. The ST disk format is similar to the PC's, except in the number of sectors addressed by one directory entry. The ST's reading and writing routines are rather more flexible than the PC's and can recognise a number of different formats, including PC format. This is the feature that many extended disk formatting programs exploit. The PC can only read/write its own format, so the compatibility is only one way.

The answer is to get a PC formatting program for the ST which can format PC disks. I use one called FORMST11 which can go both extended format and CDS-compatible formats.

Be aware of using all CDS-compatible disks to your ST through the ST drive

a random number in the disk boot sector so that disk bugs can be noted. CDS disks simply have the CDS version number placed in the same place, so disk bugs can go unnoticed when using third-party.

I own a Compaq 386 of work with a 1440x 512 word and transfer data between the machines with no problem. There are a couple of things to note of the PC end.

First, the PC can be made to format a 1.2" disk to 1728 in a 1440x drive using the following command (assuming the 1.2" is drive B):
FORMAT B, 1728/512

It is quite possible to format a single-sided disk even though IBM have never used 1.2" single-sided disks. The following line must be added to the config file:
DISK1 = 80000 512 512 1440

This adds an extra logical disk with only one head allowing 512K with single-sided disks to keep information with PCs.

Graham Curtis, Brentford, Dorset

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To whether it's help offered or needed, write to:
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4 Queen Street,
Bath, Avon BA1 1TA.

going
will cost
you £200
for ST and
colour monitor,
another £70 for PC (also -

your internet system).

In comparison you could get a working PC-compatible system for as little as £400 (the Swift PC from Phoenix) or around £600 for a genuine PC-compatible such as those from IBM, Open, or a dozen other manufacturers.

Alas, the PC-compatible will be with more features and not good for games as that is true, but you could only upgrade to CDS, or the much better CDS when you have more money.

In the long term, the PC will work out cheaper if you get into computing seriously. Extra disk drives, memory, and hard disks will cost far less on the PC than on the ST.

In a nutshell, if you use last week's issue you'll know that for time and spending will recommended the Open 1000 at about £250, but if you have trouble buying one now, try the Phoenix 80 P100 at about £170, or the IBM Pentabook BP110 at about £110.

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Multi interfaces

When I'm not the most cynical of people, or someone whose eyes tend to focus on what's missing in the box, will tell you that this interface comes from Texas Instruments and Texas Instruments are, well, and despite the odds, even I try to take an interest in these matters. I pay for the interesting support for your information.

IBM (1987) (1987), which produces its own MBI interface, has added the price for a major to IBM, which doesn't include the software that it sells (24.95). The MBI of 1987, for the way, says the interface software for IBM (1987), but we haven't had that (which has). The software I bought was in different for the various MBI products for the CPC, which are compatible.

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Chuck's up!

Chuck's *Dragon's Lair* has been already been a major success on the PC - and now here it is on the CPC. It's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

The first time you see it, it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

It should be a strong contender for the game of the year. As if you need telling, Chuck is a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.



• Chuck is the best, but looking good

It's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

specifically for the Commodore 64. It's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

It's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

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For a long time now, I've been a fan of the CPC. It's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

It's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

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Featured

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It's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do, and it's a game that is expected to be the best that the CPC can do.

Steve Jones

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Issue 1: Future of computing, PC graphics, revival of BASIC, Xmas games.
Issue 2: What's computer?, the perfect wordprocessor, Xmas console.
Issue 3: Portable computing, Alan Sugar profile part 1, yuppie software.
Issue 4: Segal 16-bit arcade, best value PC games that change your life.
Issue 5: PC 386 basics, DTP guide, computer art, Xmas explained.
Issue 6: 80286 Coupe, servers in computing, Resident profile, cracking.
Issue 7: Best games of '85, state of the year, look forward to '88.
Issue 8: Corresponding controversy, classic computer problems solved.
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